
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



Sam Cotten, Commissioner
Scott Kelley, Director



Contact:
Eric Coonradt

Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Phone: (907) 747-6688
Fax: (907) 747-6693

Date: March 17, 2017
Time: 6:00 p.m.

SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #2

Sitka... An aerial survey was conducted today covering Sitka Sound north of West Crawfish Inlet, and south of Krestof Sound. No herring or herring spawn was observed. The highest concentration of herring predators was observed between Bieli Rock and Inner Point; numerous whales were seen working in deeper waters west of Bieli Rock. Additionally, 10 whales and 40 sea lions were in the waters of Crow Pass and south of Middle Island, and 2 whales and 20 sea lions were observed along the northeast Middle Island shore.

The vessel R/V Kestrel found a large biomass of herring in the deep water west of Bieli Rock. Other large concentrations were found in Crow Pass and along the northeast Middle Island shoreline. The R/V Kestrel will depart the dock on March 18th at 7:00 a.m. to begin surveying and will be prepared to take fishery samples.

Test samples taken on March 17:

North Crow Pass, 8.6% mature roe, 1.6% immature roe, 153 gram, 48% female;
North Crow Island, 0.1% mature roe, 8.2% immature roe, 75 gram, 57% female;
North Middle Island, 8.7% mature roe, 1.0% immature roe, 138 gram, 40% female;

Fishermen wanting to make practice sets may do so in Eastern Channel until further notice.

The next Fishery Update can be expected on Saturday, March 18.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
ADF&G	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
AWT	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	945-3620	784-3220